Using Mixed Methods to Develop the Student Pharmacist Inventory of Professional Engagement (S-PIPE) Measure

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Objectives: The goal of this study is to explore the construct of professional engagement (PE) and develop an assessment tool to measure it in student pharmacists. This work will attempt to answer the questions: 1) What are the major themes of PE?, and 2) How valid and reliable is a newly developed instrument to measure PE?

Methods: A sequential exploratory mixed method design was chosen to allow rich textual data to inform the development of a new measure. The sequential exploratory design consists of two phases. In the first phase, focus groups will be conducted with student pharmacists and data will be analyzed using thematic analysis. The qualitative data will be used to develop an instrument to assess PE. The items will reflect the specific content of the identified themes, response codes, and quotes. In the second phase, the instrument will be administered to a large multi-site sample of student pharmacists. Validity and reliability will be analyzed using correlations with other scales, confirmatory factor analysis, structural equation modeling, goodness of fit index analysis, and Cronbach’s alpha.

Results: Not yet available.

Implications/Conclusions: This work will result in an improved understanding and an instrument to measure PE. The S-PIPE can be used as a measure of professional engagement in student pharmacists across a wide variety of contexts. Outcomes of higher levels of professional engagement and correlations with other psychosocial metrics can be explored. Additionally the impact of educational activities and other interventions to improve professional engagement can be studied.

This abstract represents a proposal for the development of an instrument to measure professional engagement in student pharmacists.

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